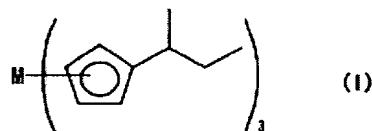


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original) A tris(sec-butylcyclopentadienyl) complex of a rare earth metal represented by general formula (I):



wherein M represents a rare earth metal atom.

2. (original) The tris(sec-butylcyclopentadienyl) complex according to claim 1, wherein M is yttrium.

3. (original) The tris(sec-butylcyclopentadienyl) complex according to claim 1, wherein M is lanthanum.

4. (original) The tris(sec-butylcyclopentadienyl) complex according to claim 1, wherein M is praseodymium.

5. (original) The tris(sec-butylcyclopentadienyl) complex according to claim 1, wherein M is erbium.

6. (currently amended) A material for thin film formation comprising the tris(sec-butylcyclopentadienyl) complex according to claim 1 any one of claims 1 to 5.

7. (original) A process of forming a thin film, comprising vaporizing the material for thin film formation according to claim 6, introducing the resulting vapor containing the tris(sec-butylcyclopentadienyl) complex onto a substrate, and causing the tris(sec-butylcyclopentadienyl) complex to decompose and/or chemically react to form a rare earth metal-containing thin film on the substrate.